

Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 EUR-25 NIC-01 DRC-01 /131 W

----- 022993

R 230833Z APR 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 457

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 4482

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJECT: NCNA REPORTS CHUNGKING COMMEMORATION OF U.S.-CHIANG
ATROCITIES

REF: HONG KONG 4171

1. THE CAMPAIGN TO RECALL PAST IMPERIALIST WRONGS AGAINST
CHINA HAS NOW BEEN PUSHED FORWARD IN PEKING'S NATIONAL MEDIA
(REFTEL). AN APRIL 22 NCNA ENGLISH-LANGUAGE REPORT WHICH DESCRIBES
A GATHERING IN CHUNGKING TO RECALL CRIMES COMMITTED BY THE "U.S.-
CHINAG" REACTIONARIES IS QUITE SHARP ON THE U.S., WHILE TOTALLY
OMITTING MENTION OF THE SOVIETS WHO HAVE BEEN THE OSTENSIBLE
TARGETS OF SUCH PROPAGANDA.

2. SIGNIFICANTLY, THE APRIL 22 NCNA REPORT IS A TONED DOWN
VERSION OF THE SAME STORY PUBLISHED ON NCNA'S DOMESTIC SERVICE
APRIL 18. THAT EARLIER CHINESE-LANGUAGE VERSION (FBIS APRIL 18)
CHARGED THAT LIN'S "OBJECTIVE WAS TO BRING THE U.S. AND CHIANG
KAI-SHEK REACTIONARIES BACK TO MASSACRE THE PEOPLE." THIS IS
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REWRITTEN IN THE APRIL 22 VERSION TO READ "HIS PURPOSE WAS TO
PERMIT REACTIONARIES TO SLAUGHTER REVOLUTIONARIES AGAIN."

3. THERE IS ALSO AN INTRIGUING ANACHRONISM IN THE EARLIER, DOMESTIC VERSION WHICH NCNA ENGLISH OMITTS FOR THE FOREIGN READERS. IT TREATS CONFUCIUS AS A CONTEMPORARY OF LIN WHEN IT SAYS "LIN PIAO AND CONFUCIUS RAISED A HUE AND CRY ABOUT 'RESTRAINING ONESELF AND RESTORING THE RITES.' THEIR REAL OBJECTIVE WAS TO BRING THE U.S. AND CHIANG KAI-SHEK REACTIONARIES BACK...." (FBIS OKINAWA CONFIRMS THIS PASSAGE).

4. COMMENT. THIS IS THE MOST OPEN INSTANCE WE HAVE NOTED OF "CONFUCIUS" BEING HANDLED LIKE A CODE WORD FOR SOME CONTEMPORARY FIGURE IN THE PRC. IT COULD BE AN ERROR BUT BEARS WATCHING.
CROSS

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